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Letter dated 9 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I write to you in connection with the forthcoming item on the agenda of the Security Council entitled "The situation in Croatia", dealing with the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP).

My Government commends the contribution of UNMOP in ensuring stability on the southern-most border between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The past negotiations to resolve the issue of Prevlaka were fruitless, burdened by the Milošević régime's ambition for territorial expansion and disrespect for the land border of Prevlaka as the internationally recognized border. In this regard, my Government welcomes the resumption of its bilateral contacts with the new democratically oriented authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia and with the authorities of Montenegro.

My Government is encouraged by the political will of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to engage actively in the quest for a solution of the Prevlaka issue, as expressed in its letter of 3 July 2001 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/668), and is ready to start the negotiations on the delimitation of the maritime border based on international law as soon as possible.

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Croatia, in good faith, is ready to accept the extension of the UNMOP mandate for another period of six months, expecting it to be the final one. With the constructive approach of the new Government in Belgrade, we hope for a speedy solution of the Prevlaka issue, based on the principle of the inviolability of the existing internationally recognized borders.

I would like to request your kind assistance in distributing the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jasna **Ognjanovac**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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